

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 EUR-10 EB-03

DRC-01 /069 W

----- 076336

R 090510Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1965

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T CANBERRA 6095

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, AS

SUBJECT: SIR KEITH WALLER'S OBSERVATIONS ON CHOU-WHITLAM
CONVERSATIONS

1. SIR KEITH WALLER, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GAVE ME AN
ACCOUNT YESTERDAY OF HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CHOU-WHITLAM MEETINGS,
ALL OF WHICH HE ATTENDED. THIS MESSAGE WILL COVER WALLER'S
ACCOUNT AND IMPRESSIONS, AVOIDING EXCESSIVE OVERLAP WITH THAT
WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON.

2. PRC-ASEAN RELATIONS: WHITLAM TOLD CHOU HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
ASEAN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING PEKING BUT THEY HARBORED DOUBTS
REGARDING LOYALTIES OF THEIR OVERSEAS CHINESE. CHOU AFFIRMED
THAT OVERSEAS CHINESE SHOULD ADOPT THE
NATIONALITY OF COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE, TO WHICH WHITLAM RESPONDED

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THAT IF PRC SAID THIS LOUDER IT MIGHT ALLAY ASEAN CONCERNS. CHOU SAID THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED IN DUE COURSE, PARTLY TO TEST REACTIONS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE, BUT ALSO AS PART OF PROCESS LEADING TO BILATERAL TREATIES WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. CHOU TOLD WHITLAM HE COULD TELL RAJARATNAM THAT THIS WAS HIS VIEW WHEN RAJARATNAM VISITS AUSTRALIA SHORTLY.

3. CHOU REMARKED THAT PRC WAS LIKELY TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE BEFORE MALAYSIA, AT WHICH POINT FONMIN CHI P'ENG-FEI, IN HIS ONLY STATEMENT DURING 11 1/2 HOURS OF THE CHOU-WHITLAM TALKS, OBSERVED THAT HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE LIKE THAT. CHOU EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE A BREAKTHROUGH IN PRC RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES AND REGRET OVER SPLITTING OFF SOME YEARS AGO OF SINGAPORE FROM MALAYSIA. CHOU ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE TRYING TO BUILD A SHIPYARD IN THE OUTER ISLANDS OF SINGAPORE. (WALLER CHARACTERIZED LATTER AS A PURE CANARD IN HIS OPINION.)

4. WHEN WHITLAM RAISED QUESTION OF PRC HOSTILE BROADCASTS TO BURMA AND THAILAND, CHOU'S RESPONSE WAS COLD AND SHARPS: AS

A MATTER OF BASIC PRINCIPLE, PRC WOULD SUPPORT PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONS.

5. PRC PARANOIA: WHITLAM SAID HE HAD HEARD IN JAPAN THAT PRC IS NOW MORE RELAXED RE US PRESENCE IN EAST ASIA. THIS CAUSED CHOU TO LAUNCH INTO AN EXTENSIVE STATEMENT REGARDING SOVIET IMPERIALISM, ADDING THAT HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CRITIC HM TO PRESIDENT DINIXON AND TO TANAKA ABOUT US AND JAPANESE IMPERIALISM. CHOU EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IF US AND USSR COLLUDED SOVIET MIGHT ATTACK PRC FROM NORTH, WITH US SIMULATNEOUSLY ATTACKING ALONG YANGTZE, JAPANESE ALONG SHANTUNG PENINSULA AND THE INDIANS FROM THE WEST. CHOU SAID THIS WAS ONLY A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION, OF COURSE, BUT CHINESE PREPARATIONS PREVENTED THIS FROM OCCURING. (WALLER TOLD ME HE WAS GREATLY TAKEN ABACK BY THIS, ALTHOUGH OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY SAW THIS AS RHETORICAL HYPOTHESIS. HOWEVER, WALLER FELT HE WAS LISTENING TO A VOICE FROM CHINA'S PAST, UNRELATED TO CURRENT REALITIES, ALSO REFLECTING PEKING'S VAST PARANOIA.)

6. CHOU WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRC WAS OPPOSED TO ALL IMPERIALISTS,
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BUT PRC RELATIONS WITH US WERE BETTER THAN THOSE WITH USSR. HE WAS CRITICAL OF PRESENCE OF B-52'S IN THAILAND WHEN US EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM HAD DEMONSTRATED LIMITATIONS OF AERIAL BOMBING. CHOU SAID THAT FILIPINOS AND JAPANESE WANTED A REDUCTION IN US PRESENCE, BUT HE FELT THAT, UNLESS THESE COUNTRIES HAD ADEQUATE MEANS OF DEFENSE, US WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE ATTENDED WITH EVEN WORSE SITUATION OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. CHOU ADDED THAT EVEN IN THE CASE OF TAIWAN, WHICH US IN PRINCIPLE SHOULD QUIT, PRC

DID NOT WANT TO SEE US WITHDRAWAL RESULTING IN ENTERING OF RUSSIANS: IF US WITHDREW, AND RUSSIANS MOVED IN, PRC WOULD HOLD THE US RESPONSIBLE. (ONCE AGAIN WALLER FOUND THIS A RATHER "FRIGHTENING" REFLECTION OF PRC HYPER-PARANOIA AND ATTACHMENT TO UNREALITY. WALLER ALSO POINTED OUT INCONSISTENCY OF ABOVE WITH CHOU'S OBSERVATION, ANOTHER POINT IN CONVERSATION, THAT US FORCES IN PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND, AND INDONESIAN INVOLVEMENT IN ICC, WERE OBSTACLES TO PEACEFUL COOPERATION.)

7. JAPAN: CHOU WAS ODDLY CRITICAL OF JAPAN'S INTENSIVE INDUSTRIALIZATION AT EXPENSE OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. HE THOUGHT THIS HIGHLY UNHEALTHY FOR JAPAN'S ECONOMY. CHOU SAID THAT US IS MORE CONCERNED THAT PRC REGARDING REVIVAL OF JAPANESE MILITARISM. (WALKER NOTED

AT THIS POINT THAT AUSTRALIA, OF COURSE, TAKES OPPOSITE VIEWPOINT RE JAPANESE INDUSTRIALIZATION. WALLER OBSERVED THAT CHOU WAS RELUCTANT TO INDULGE IN CRITICISM OF JAPAN THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION AND FELT THAT CHOU, IN ACTUALITY, FEARED EVENTUAL JAPANESE MILITARISM DESPITE HIS COMMENT TO THE CONTRARY.)

8. TAIWAN: CHOU SAID PRC NOW HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND DID NOT SAY WHETHER PRC WOULD JOIN IBRD OR IMF. CHOU ONLY MADE IT CLEAR HE WANTED ROC OUT OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS.

9. CHOU FELT IT NECESSARY TO DELIVER A "LECTURE" ON TAIWAN'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, CLAIMING THAT ITS FIGURES ON FOREIGN TRADE WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND DISTORTED BECAUSE THEY INCLUDED ROC FREE-PORT PROCESSING OF FOREIGN GOODS. HE GRANTED THAT TRADE THROUGH FREE-PORT ZONES WAS OF SOME BENEFIT TO ROC; HOWEVER, IT CERTAINLY DID NOT HELP THE LITTLE MAN ON TAIWAN.

10. FAMILY REUNIONS: RESPONSIVE TO APPROACHES MADE TO HIM BY
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CHINESE RESIDENTS IN AUSTRALIA, WHITLAM RAISED QUESTION OF PRC PERMITTING CHINESE TO VISIT THEIR RELATIVES IN AUSTRALIA. CHOU SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN THIS REGARD. (WALLER COMMENTED THAT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER06095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731145/aaaabgru.tel
Line Count: 153
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 13 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; WITHDRAWN <16-Oct-2001 by kellew0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <13-Dec-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIR KEITH WALLER'S OBSERVATIONS ON CHOU-WHITLAM CONVERSATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005